

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the application. Applicants also thank the Examiner for allowing claim 21 and indicating that claims 4, 10, 15, 21, 25, and 31 are allowable. Applicants, however, do not necessarily agree or acquiesce with each statement in the Office action as to why claim 21 is allowed or why claims 4, 10, 15, 21, 25, and 31 are allowable. Instead, Applicants respectfully submit that the language within the claims speak for themselves.

Claims 2-6, 8-11, 13-21, and 24-31 are now pending in the application.

Claims 4, 10, 15, and 25 have been rewritten in independent form, and, accordingly, claims 4, 10, 15, and 25 (and all dependent claims therefrom) should be in condition for allowance.

In an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have cancelled independent claims 1, 7, 12, and 22 (and dependent claim 23 therefrom) without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Applicants reserve the right to refile all cancelled claims and contest the objections and rejections thereof in one or more subsequent applications.

Applicants have further amended the rejected dependent claims to change their dependency from a cancelled claim (1, 7, 12, or 23) to an allowable claim (4, 10, 15, or 25) that has been rewritten into independent form and should now be allowable. Accordingly, all dependent claims should also now be in condition for allowance.

Per the Examiner's suggestions, Applicants have made minor non-narrowing amendments claims 6, 20, 21, and 29 to overcome the objections to claims 6, 21, and 29 and rejection of claim 20. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to remove the objections to claims 6, 21, and 29 and rejection of claim 20.

The claim amendments have rendered moot all of the objections and rejections to the claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejections and issue a notice of full allowance for the application.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request

that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned directly at (314) 726-7502.

Applicants believe that they do not owe any fee in connection with this filing. If, however, Applicants do owe any fee(s), the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee(s) to Deposit Account No. **08-0750**. In addition, if there is ever any other fee deficiency or overpayment under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.17 in connection with this patent application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiency or overpayment to Deposit Account No. **08-0750**.

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Respectfully submitted,
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